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ECHOS

BY EZRA POUND

I

(Trecento)

Guido Orlando, Singing:

Befits me praise thine empery,
  Lady of Valor,
Past all disproving
Thou art the flower to me—
  Nay, by Love's pallor—
Of all good loving.

For thou alone art she
  In whom love's vested;
And branch hath fairest flower
  Where fruit's suggested.

So great joy comes to me,
  To me observing
How swiftly Thou hast power
  To pay my serving.

II

Two Cloaks

Thou keep'st thy rose-leaf
  Till the rose-time will be over,
Think'st thou that Death will kiss thee?
Think'st thou that the Dark House
  Will find thee such a lover
As I? Will the new roses miss thee?

Prefer my cloak unto the cloak of dust
  'Neath which the last year lies,
For thou shouldst more mistrust
  Time than my eyes.

Ezra Pound.